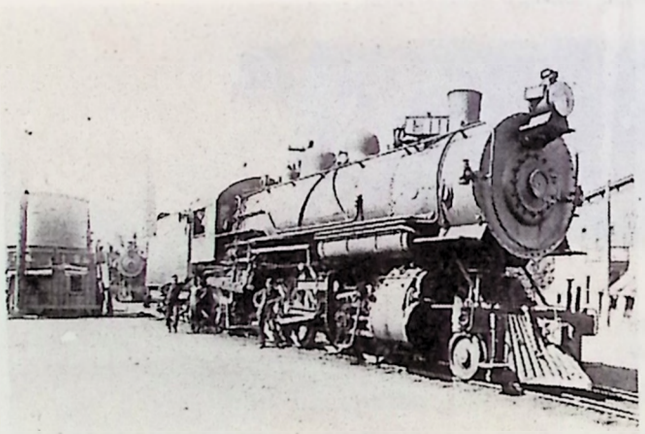
1997 GOLD HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1997

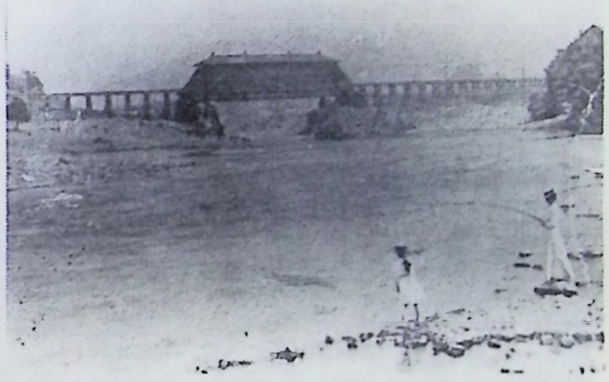
Presents *the* *"Early Years"* • *of* ***"RAILROADS"***

In 1883 Surveying was started for the railroad. Land was deeded for the City of Gold Hill in 1884 and the same year railroad construction came through the area. The rails reached the California border in 1887. Shown surveying are William Newton, Sardine Creek pioneer & his brother-in-law Curtis Miller. Charles Strang at transit, others not identified
Courtesy M. Ruth Harmon



1908 photo of #537 Baldwin 2-8-2 Mikado type heavy freight locomotive H.E. Wharton was fireman on this or a sister engine. He lost his L. leg in wreck in 1909.

Courtesy Chuck Wharton
GIHS 2422 (96.16.1)



1st R.R. Bridge built in 1884 by Oregon Central R.R. across Rogue River at Gold Hill. Cover added in 1886.
Courtesy Hortense Thompson Mayer Est.
GIHS-2127 (95.13.157)

January 1997

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	FEBRUARY 1997 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	recycled paper	1 001 New Year's Day	2 002	3 003	4 004
5 005	6 006	7 007	8 008	9 009	10 010	11 011
12 012	13 013	14 014	15 015	16 016	17 017	18 018
19 019	20 020	21 021	22 022	23 023	24 024	25 025
26 026	27 027	28 028	29 029	30 030	31 031	January

THE MOUNT SHASTA ROUTE.

— VIA —

SOUTHERN PACIFIC COMPANY'S

LINES.

— VIA —

THE NEW ALL-RAIL LINE,

PASSING THROUGH THE BEAUTIFUL

Willamette, Umpqua and Rogue River Valleys.

Eight Views of Mt. Hood, Mt. St. Helens, Willamette Falls, Mt. Jefferson, The Three Sisters, Mt. Pitt, Table Rock, McCloud River, Soda Springs, Cattle Peaks, Strawberry Valley, Siskiyou, Mt. Shasta, Sacramento River and the Golden Gate, making this trip one of the finest in the country.

THE GRAND SCENIC ROUTE OF THE PACIFIC COAST.

7:45 A. M. Trains Leave Portland at 4:00 P.M. Daily. Arrive in San Francisco 2d Morning. 7:45 A. M.

Fares Reduced to $25, $20, $15. Baggage Checked Through.

PULLMAN BUFFET SLEEPERS

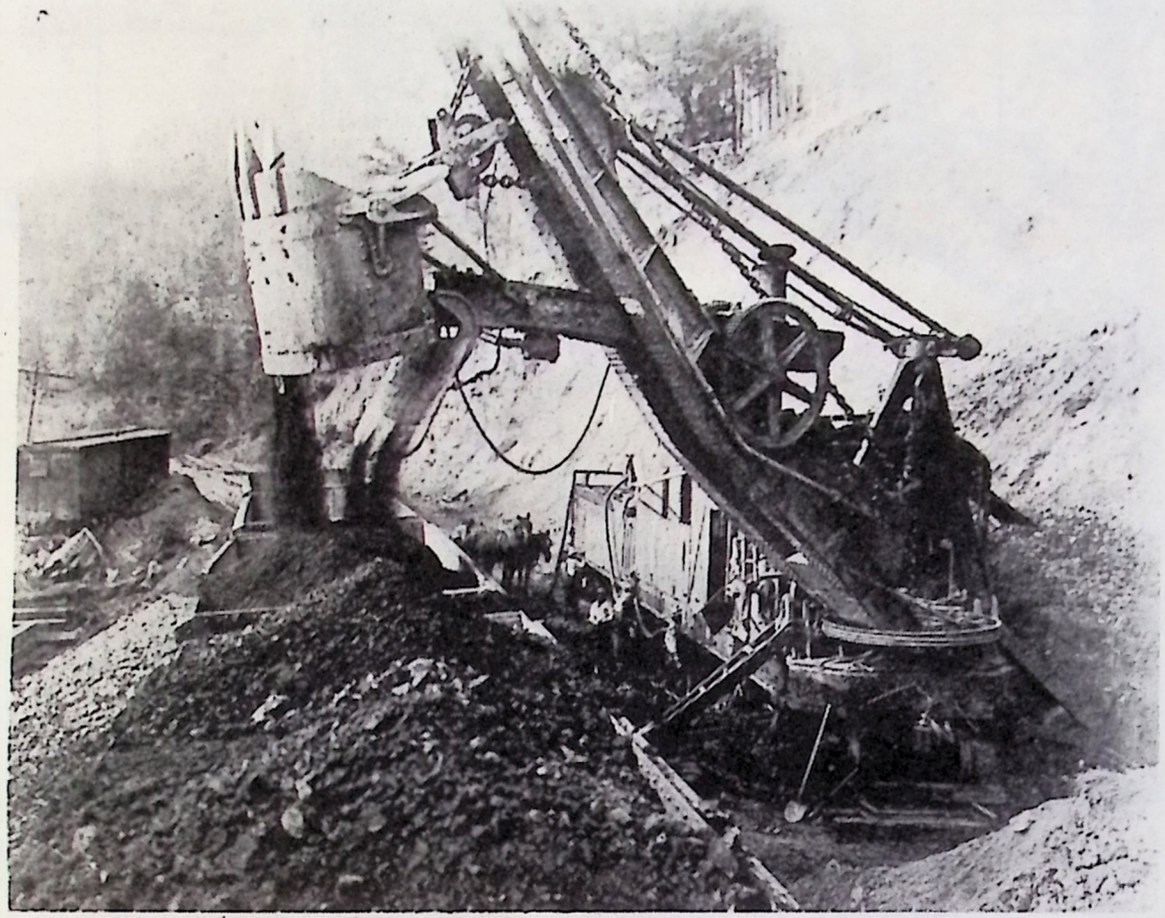
Run Through between Portland and San Francisco.

Through Tickets, $3.00 per Double Berth.

Sleeping Cars for Accommodation of Second Class Passengers ATTACHED TO EXPRESS TRAINS.

Tickets to all Points South and East VIA SAN FRANCISCO.

E. P. ROGERS,



Track mounted shovel building track near Tolo in 1884
Photo purchased from Calif. State Railroad Museum
GHHS-2399 Photo #58-11

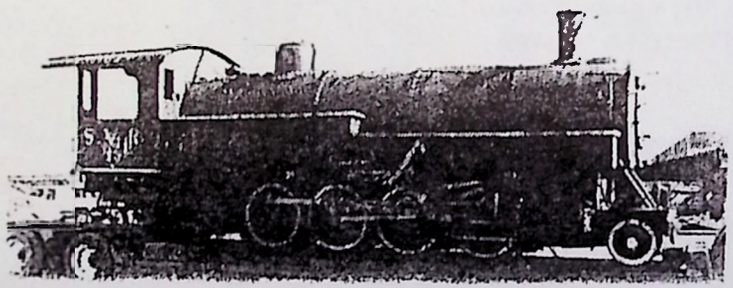
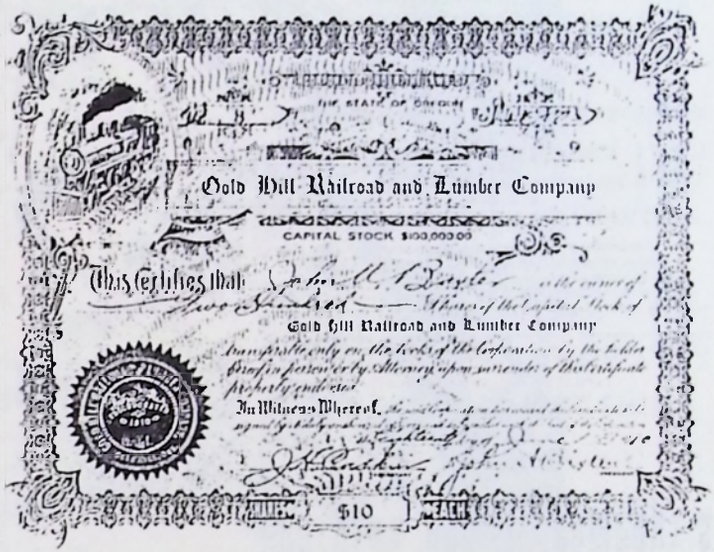
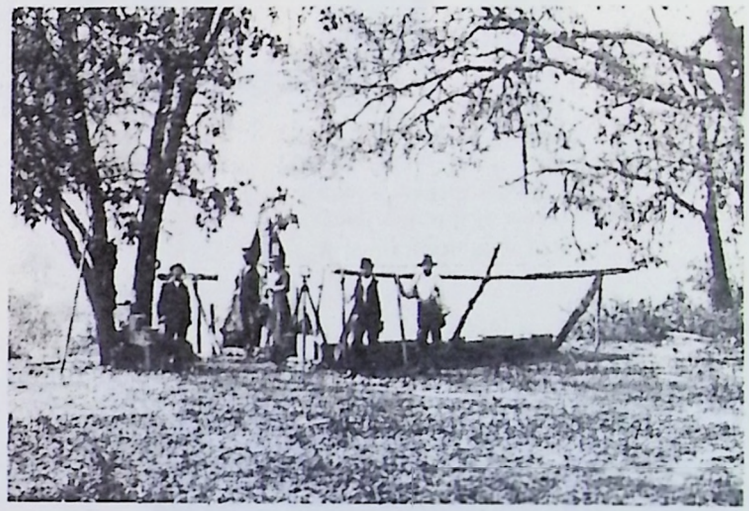
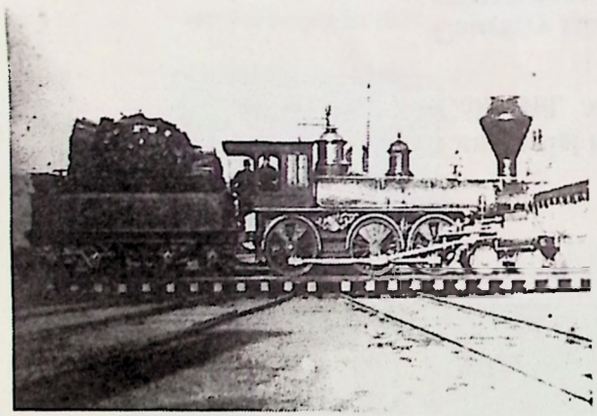


Photo courtesy of Sumpter Valley RR Resoration, Inc.





1883 Survey party at Gold Hill.
William Newton & Curtis Miller,
surveyors, Chas. Strang on left.
Courtesy M. Ruth Harmon
GHHS-1010 (94.42.26)



1889 Vintage Baldwin 4-6-0 #86
"Wood burner" at Ashland round house in 1890's

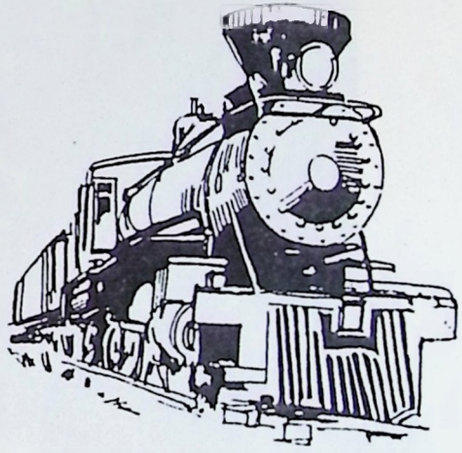
Courtesy Beth Reed Buckles
GHHS-1368 (94.45.31)

R.R. excavation by Silas Fleming.
Scarifier pulled by Ted & Blaze
Courtesy John Fleming
GHHS-890 (91.21.1)

February 1997

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JANUARY 1997 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	MARCH 1997 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	recycled paper				1 032
2 033	3 034	4 035	5 036	6 037	7 038	8 039
9 040	10 041	11 042	12 043 Lincoln's Birthday Ash Wednesday	13 044	14 045 Valentine's Day	15 046
16 047	17 048 Washington's Birthday Celebration	18 049	19 050	20 051	21 052	22 053 Washington's Birthday
23 054	24 055	25 056	26 057	27 058	28 059	

February



Oregon"s first rail service began in 1859

Courtesy R.D. Winslow Northwind Publishers

Centennial bridge shown up river from O & C railroad original bridge built in 1884 at Gold Hill. Note workers on speeder

Courtesy Hortense Thompson Mayer Estate
GHHS-2093 (95.13.34)

Oregon's first rail service began in 1859

In the late 1860's an agent for the O&C Railroad arrived in Oakland, Oregon and informed the merchants of the few stores that the Railroad would be built thru the country in a year or two

by Louise Stearns, Director
Oakland Museum

View from east of Rogue River toward town about 1927 showing 1905 R.R. Bridge
Courtesy Cindy Faubion
GHHS-961 (91.26.4)

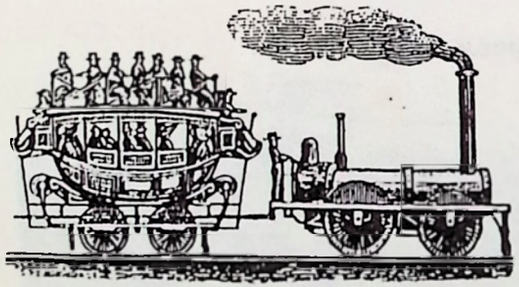
March 1997

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 1997 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	APRIL 1997 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	recycled paper				1 060
2 061	3 062	4 063	5 064	6 065	7 066	8 067
9 068	10 069	11 070	12 071	13 072	14 073	15 074
16 075	17 076 St. Patrick's Day	18 077	19 078	20 079	21 080	22 081
23 082 Palm Sunday	24 083	25 084	26 085	27 086	28 087 Good Friday	29 088
Easter 089 30	Easter Monday (Canada) 090 31					March

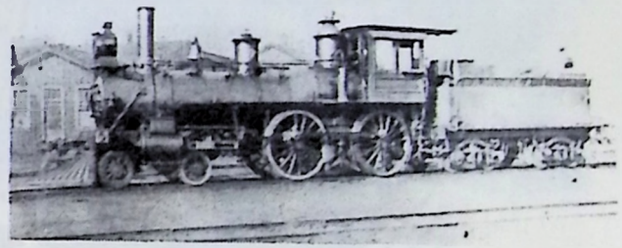
Section hand on Gold Hill bridge around 1914
Courtesy Ted Wharton
GHHS-762 (90.6.32)

Engine #6-Rogue River Valley R.R. on siding in Gold Hill in 1895. Also ran on Jacksonville spur

Courtesy Cindy Faubion
GHHS-1819 (95.6.7)



Early railroads were more of a lark for riders "The Omnibus on rails"



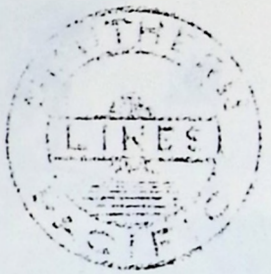
1886 Baldwin 4-4-0 Engine 1210 in 1895

Courtesy Beth Reed Buckles
GHHS-1383 (94.45.46)

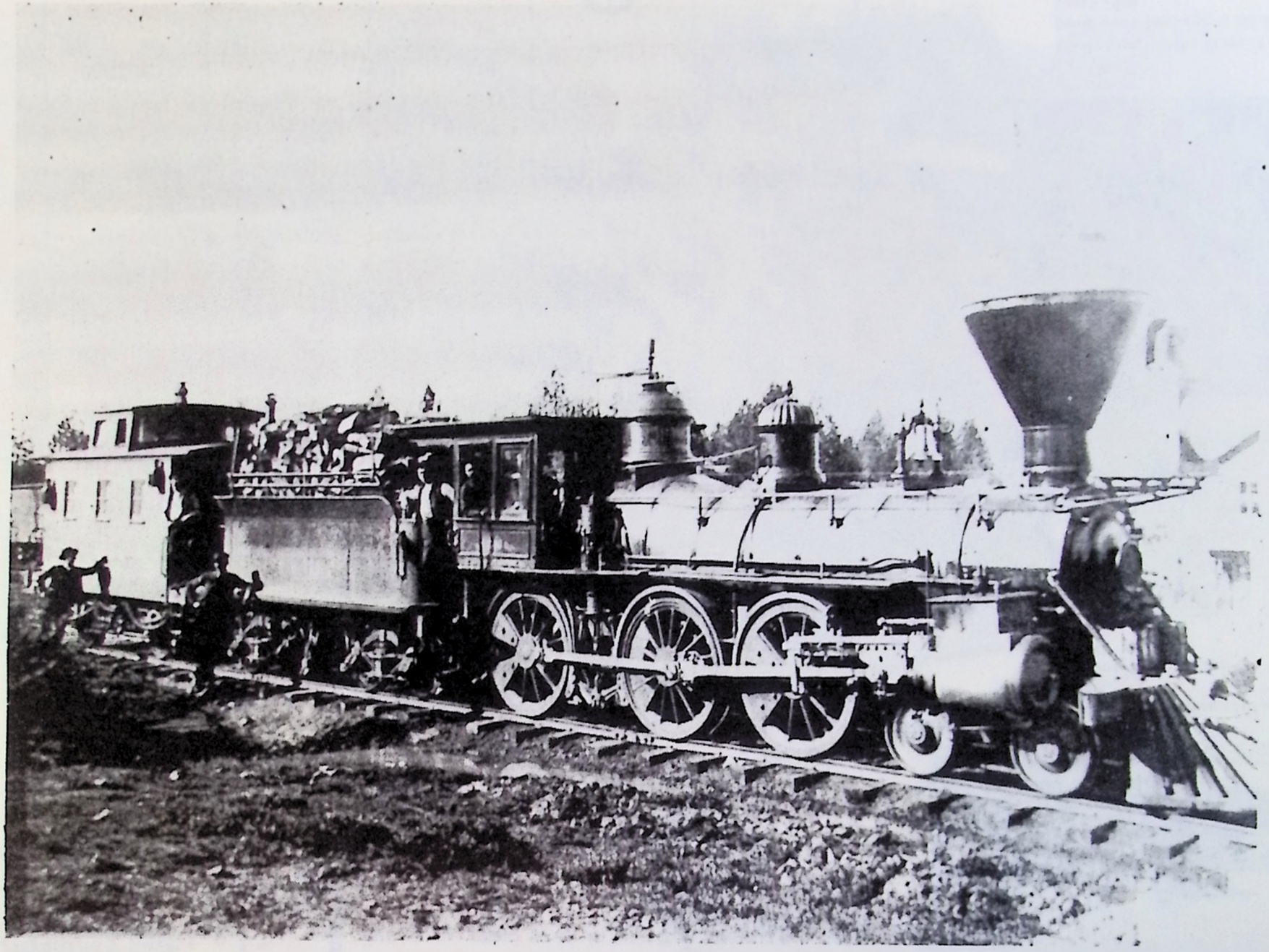
April 1997

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MARCH 1997 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	MAY 1997 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 091	2 092	3 093	4 094	5 095
6 096 Daylight Savings Time Begins	7 097	8 098	9 099	10 100	11 101	12 102
13 103	14 104	15 105	16 106	17 107	18 108	19 109
20 110	21 111 Passover Begins at Sundown	22 112 Passover	23 113	24 114	25 115	26 116
27 117	28 118	29 119	30 120	recycled paper		

April

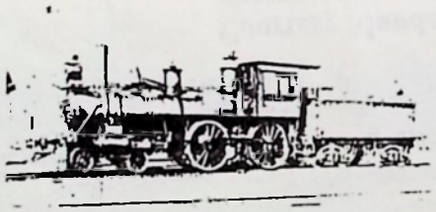


Lively Lime Works Train. Loaded car going down pulls empty car up. Kane Creek 1930.
Courtesy Winona Shoemaker Nichols
GHHS-381 (90.14.13)

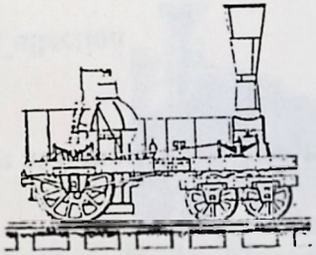


Lima wood burning Locomotive Model 4-6-0 pulling Train #82 in 1890s

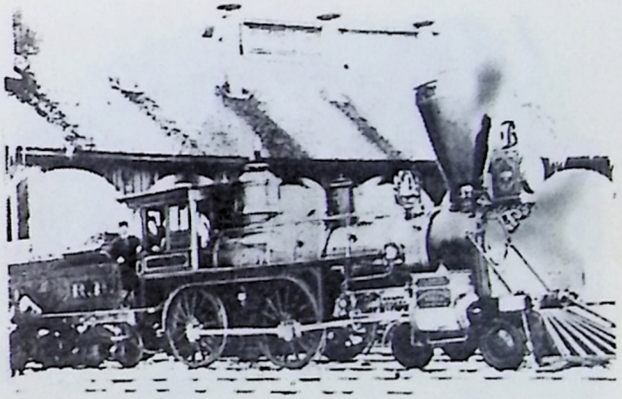
GHHS-1369 (94.45.32)



4 -4- 0 Baldwin wood burner



Baldwin Locomotive, 1834



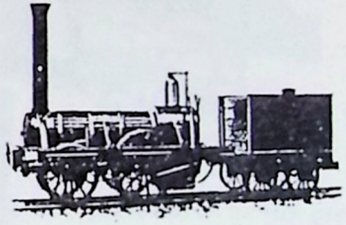
1870 Lancaster Locomotive built in Lancaster, PA about, 1887 at Ashland train sheds.
Courtesy Beth Reed Buckles
GHHS-1375 (94.45.38)

In 1906, 92 cords of wood stocked at Grants Pass.

May 1997

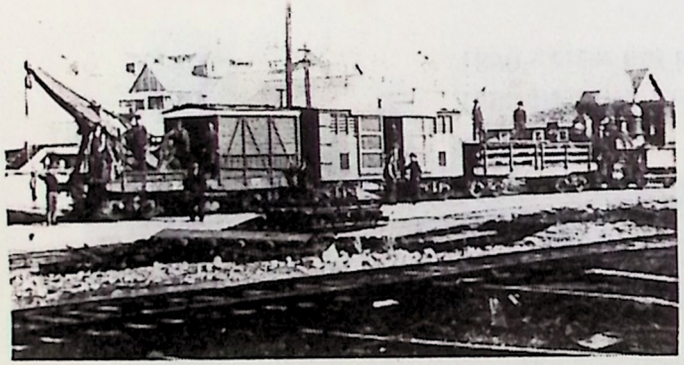
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
APRIL 1997 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	JUNE 1997 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	recycled paper		1 121	2 122	3 123
4 124	5 125	6 126	7 127	8 128	9 129	10 130
11 131 Mother's Day	12 132	13 133	14 134	15 135	16 136	17 137
18 138	19 139 Victoria Day (Canada)	20 140	21 141	22 142	23 143	24 144
25 145	26 146 Memorial Day	27 147	28 148	29 149	30 150	31 151

May

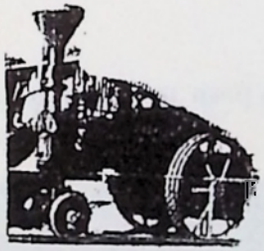


Jan. 9, 1906-Rear engine collision at Grants Pass. Involved were 1890 Vintage 4-6-0 Baldwin engines.

Courtesy Maude Coy Robinson Collection
GHHS-1348 (94.45.11)



S.P. Wrecker "GOLIATH" on work train #27 in 1883.
Courtesy Beth Reed Buckles
GHHS-1366 (94.45.29)



Argonaut

Ran on wooden rails

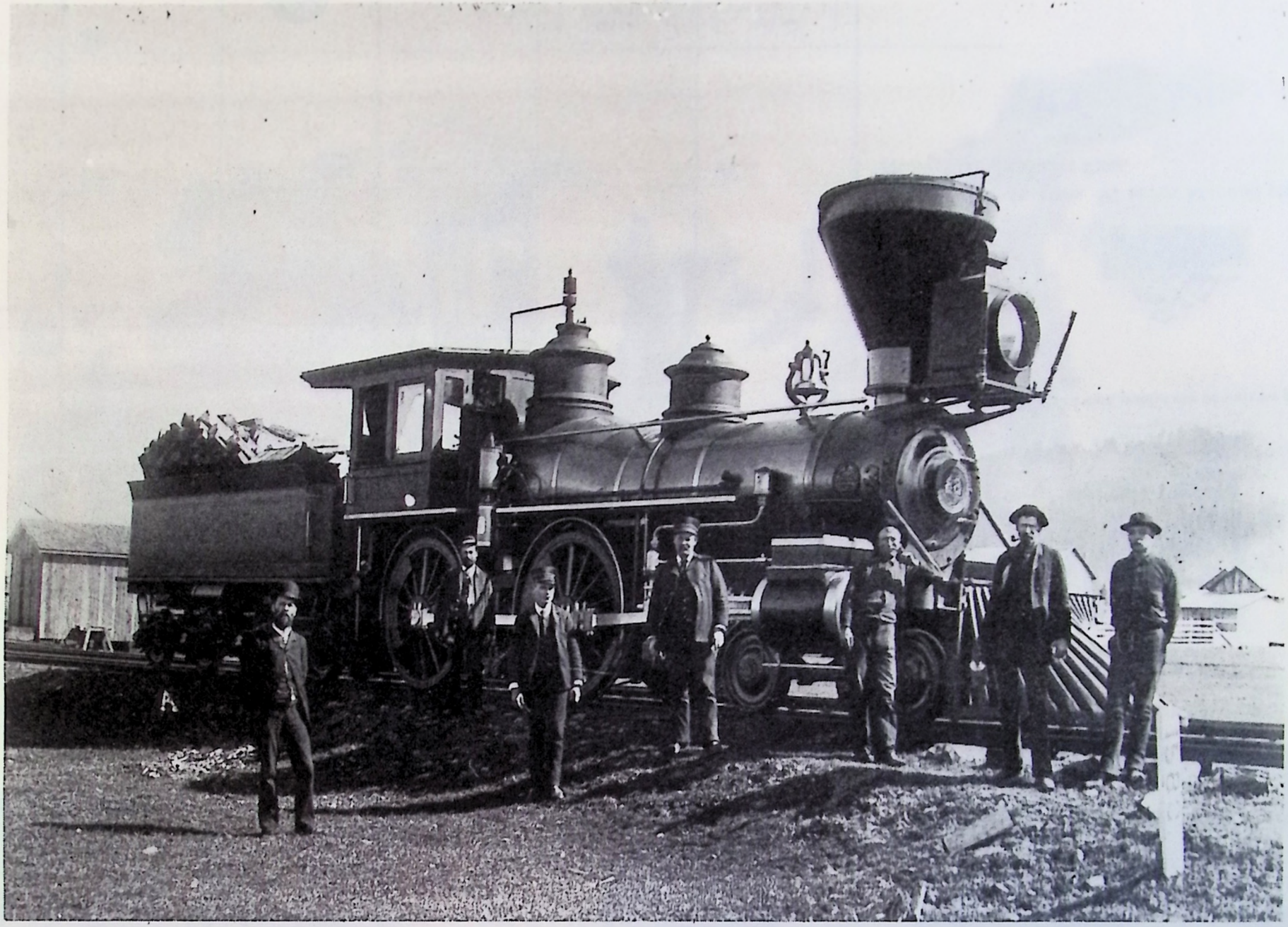
1908 wreck of train #2203. Engineer & fireman perished after train hit Maxwell's bull
Courtesy Beth Reed Buckles
GHHS-1346 (94.45.9)

June 1997

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 152	2 153	3 154	4 155	5 156	6 157	7 158
8 159	9 160	10 161	11 162	12 163	13 164	14 165 Flag Day
15 166 Father's Day	16 167	17 168	18 169	19 170	20 171	21 172
22 173	23 174	24 175 St. Jean Baptiste Day (Quebec)	25 176	26 177	27 178	28 179
29 180	30 181	recycled paper		MAY 1997 S M T W T F S 1 3 4 5 6 7 8 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 31	JULY 1997 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	June

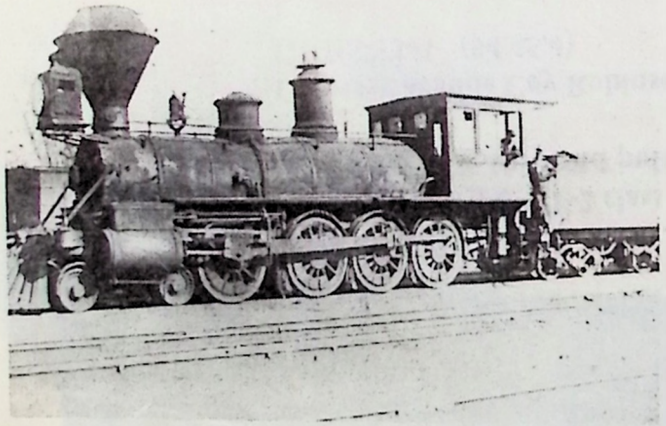
Mine cars mostly ran on narrow gauge track

In 1906, 92 cords of wood stocked at Grants Pass.



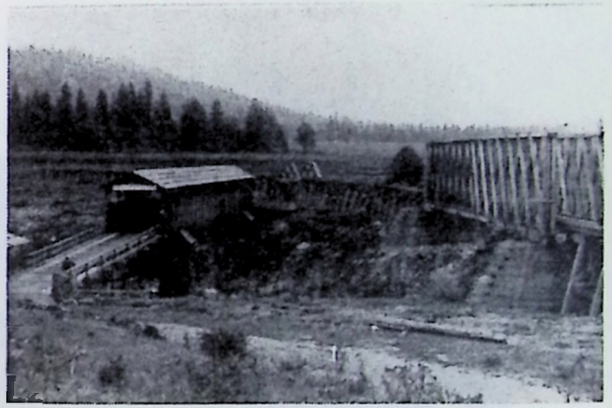
1880 Baldwin Locomotive #22,a 4-4-0 wood burner used by O & C R.R.. in early 1890's crew not identified

Courtesy Southern Oregon Historical Society
GHHS-2294 SOHS #7346



"HOG" short frt. engine for mountains & sharp turns.

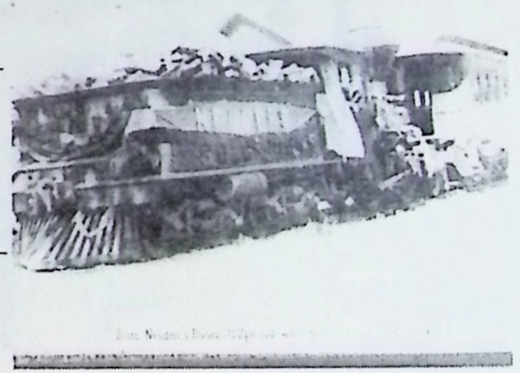
Baldwin 4-8-0 #78 after rebuild in San Francisco.
Courtesy Beth Reed Buckles
GHHS-1371 (94.45.34)



O&C railroad original bridge built in 1884 at Gold Hill.
Courtesy Hortense Thompson Mayer Estate
GHHS-2093 (95.13.34)

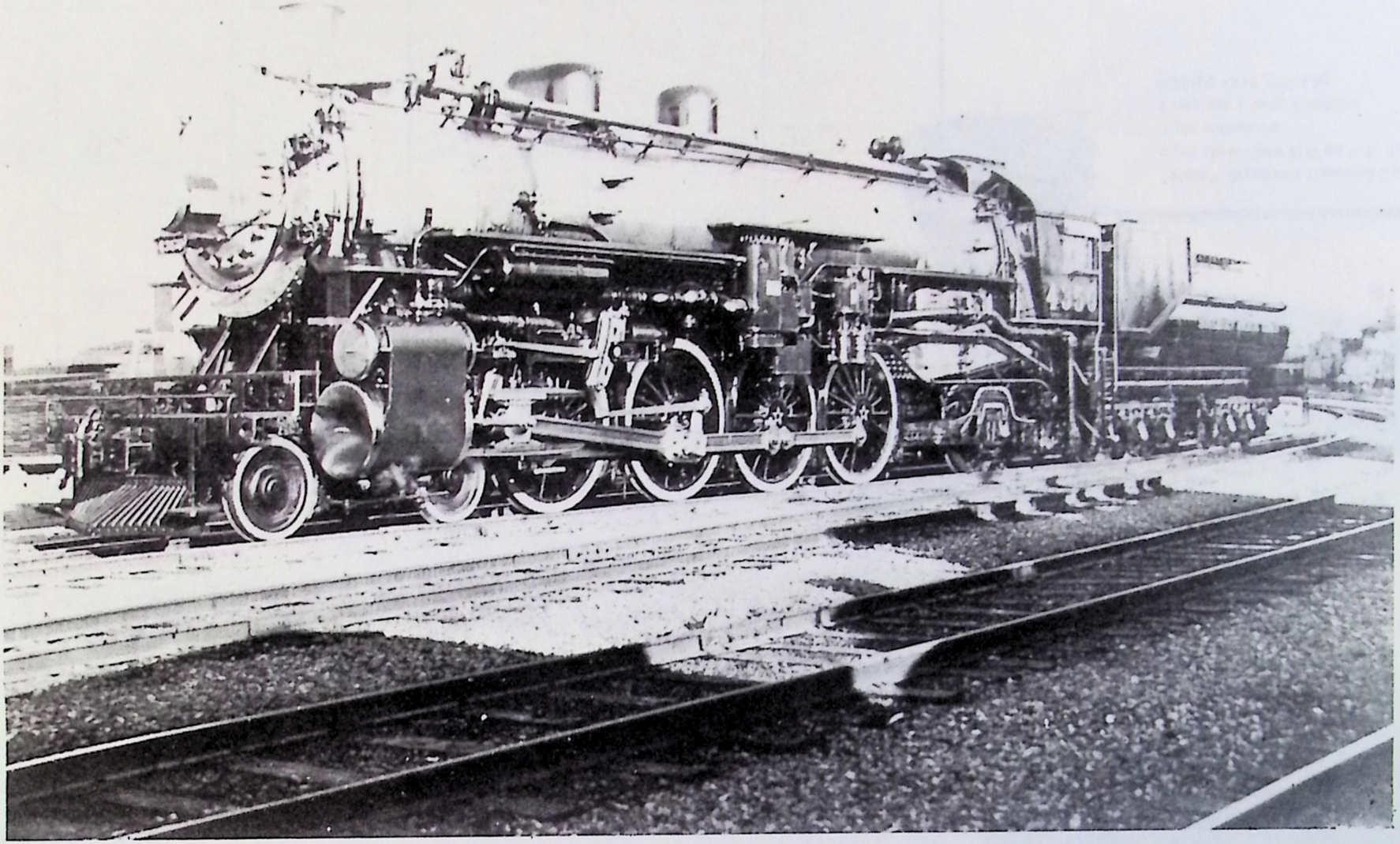
July 1997

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JUNE 1997 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	AUGUST 1997 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 182 Canada Day (Canada)	2 183	3 184	4 185 Independence Day	5 186
6 187	7 188	8 189	9 190	10 191	11 192	12 193
13 194	14 195	15 196	16 197	17 198	18 199	19 200
20 201	21 202	22 203	23 204	24 205	25 206	26 207
27 208	28 209	29 210	30 211	31 212	recycled paper	July



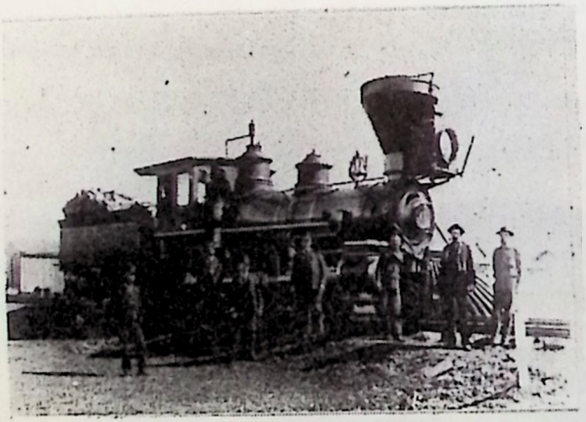
"Bum" Neuber's Baseball Special went thru Gold Hill on S.P. Tracks.
Year unknown.
Courtesy Cindy Faubion
GHHS-1818 (95.6.6)

"HI-BALL" Signal to pull out.

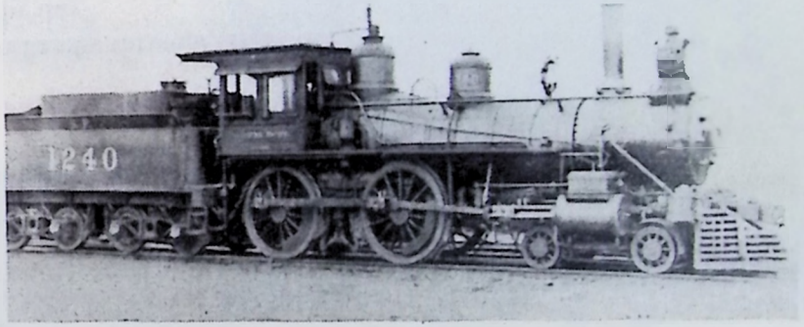


Engine 4350 a 4-8-4 T-2 class articulated Western Mountain Locomotive. Fourteen were built for S.P. in 1930 and pulled mostly passenger trains. Total engine weight 442,300 #

Courtesy Maude Coy Robinson Collection
GHHS-1341 (94.45.4)



Early Baldwin Locomotive used by
O&C R.R. prior to S.P. ownership
Courtesy SOHS
GHHS-2294



1886 Baldwin 4-4-0 Engine #1240
S.P. line in 1890

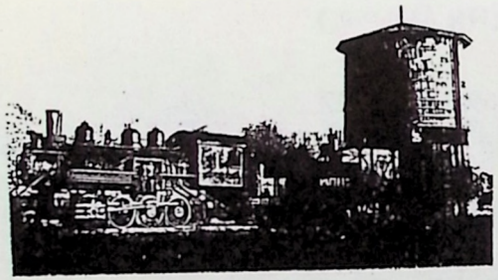
Courtesy Beth Reed Buckles
GHHS-1388 (94.45.51)

August 1997

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JULY 1997 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	SEPTEMBER 1997 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	recycled paper			1 213	2 214
3 215	4 216	5 217	6 218	7 219	8 220	9 221
10 222	11 223	12 224	13 225	14 226	15 227	16 228
17 229	18 230	19 231	20 232	21 233	22 231	23 235
24 236	25 237	26 238	27 239	28 240	29 241	30 242
243 31						August

McKean, gas engine Motor car #63, ran the Southern Pacific through Gold Hill. At depot in 1910. "The rail mounted passenger bus of the day"

Courtesy Margaret Rackley
GHHS-708 (91.6.34)



Water towers were a necessity at every station. Tanks held 100,000 gal. or more.

1863

BROTHERHOOD OF LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS

1963

1906 Collision near Grants Pass

Courtesy Beth Reed Buckles
GHHS-1345 (94.45.8)

September 1997

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
recycled paper	1 244 Labor Day	2 245	3 246	4 247	5 248	6 249
7 250 Grandparent's Day	8 251	9 252	10 253	11 254	12 255	13 256
14 257	15 258	16 259	17 260	18 261	19 262	20 263
21 264	22 265	23 266	24 267	25 268	26 269	27 270
28 271	29 272	30 273		AUGUST 1997	OCTOBER 1997	

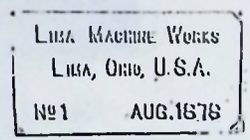
AUGUST 1997

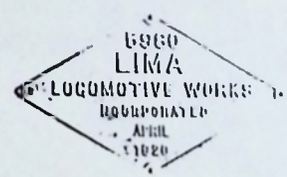
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

OCTOBER 1997

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

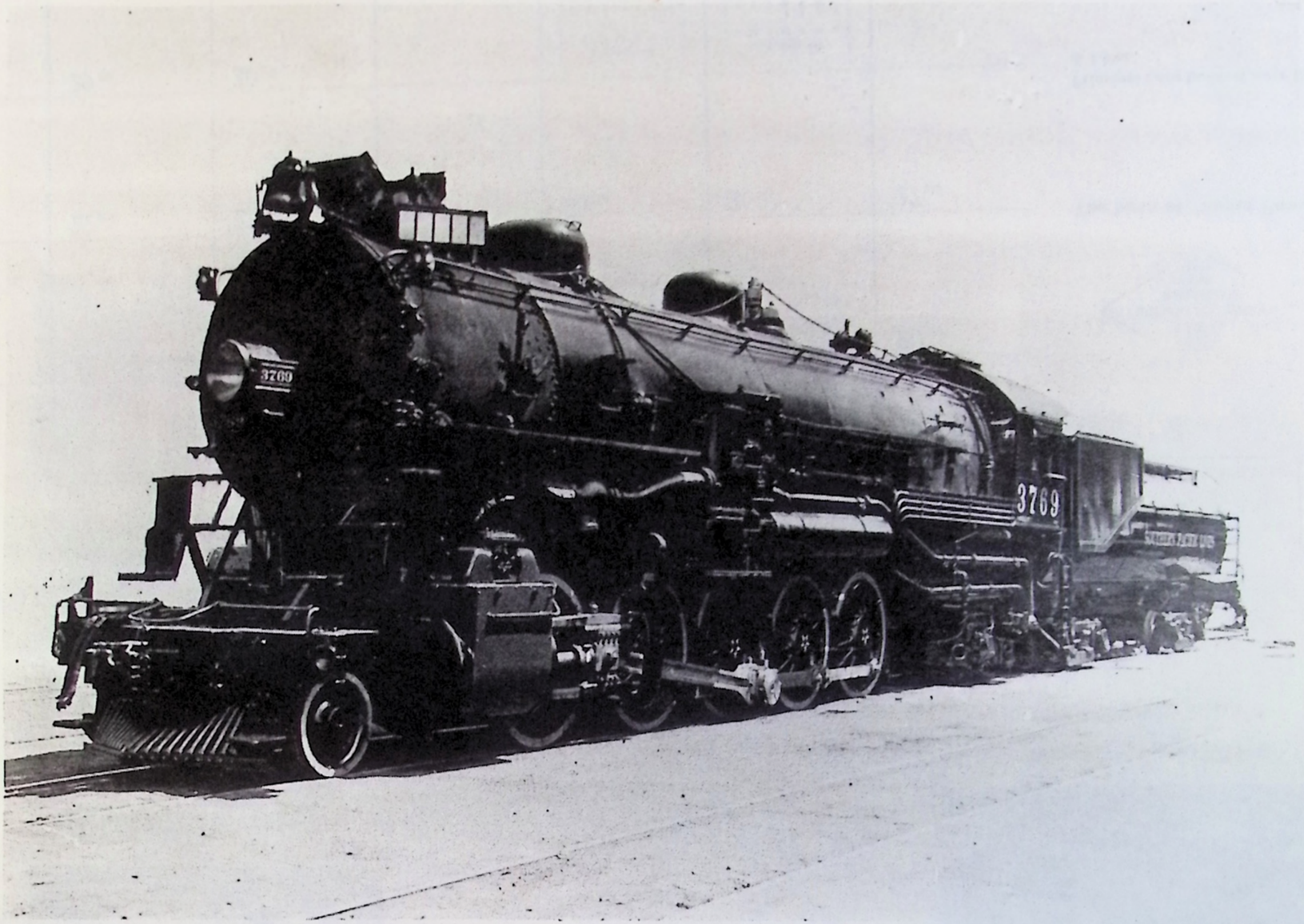
September





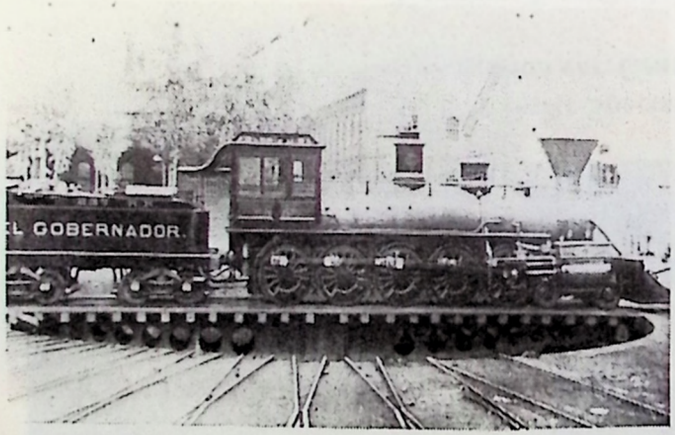
The birth of "Super Power"

Principal Loco builders were Baldwin & Lima.

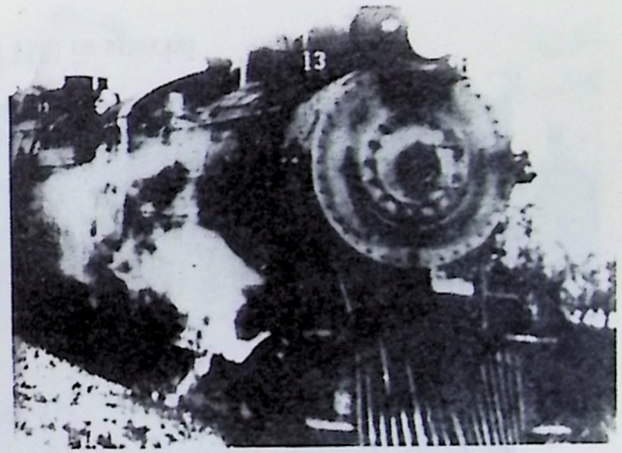


Engine #3769 a 2-10-2 mountain locomotive ran Siskiyou mountains

Courtesy Beth Reed Buckles
GHHS-1339 (94.45.1)



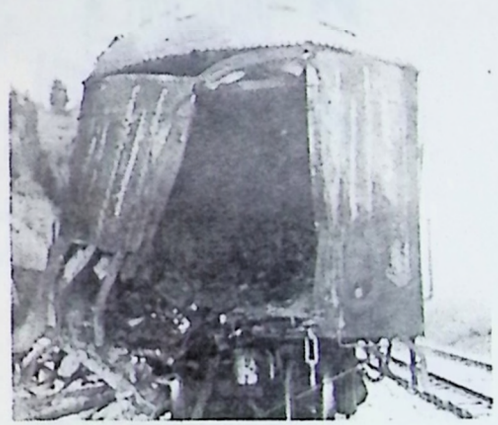
El-Gobernador- Lima 4-10-0 #237 at Ashland roundhouse in 1884. Was wrecked in 1894.
Courtesy Maude Coy Robinson Collection
GHHS-1372 (94.45.35)



Engin#3629 pulling Train #13 headed for Tunnel #13 Sept. 13, 1923. The next month the train was held up & dynamited in tunnel #13.
Courtesy Ted Wharton
GHHS-2411 (90.6.24)

October 1997

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 1997 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	NOVEMBER 1997 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 .	recycled paper •	1 274 Jewish New Year Begins at Sundown	2 275 Jewish New Year	3 276	4 277
5 278	6 279	7 280	8 281	9 282	10 283 Yom Kippur Begins at Sundown	11 284 Yom Kippur
12 285	13 286 Columbus Day Thanksgiving (Cana Ja)	14 287	15 288	16 289	17 290	18 291
19 292	20 293	21 294	22 295	23 296	24 297	25 298
26 299 Daylight Savings Time Ends	27 300	28 301	29 302	30 303	31 304 Halluween	October

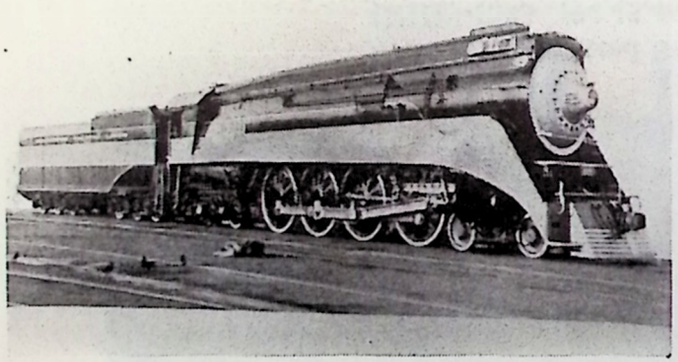


Mail car of Train #13 following Dynamite blast in tunnel #13, Oct. 11, 1923.mail clerk Elvyn Dougherty was killed in explosion.
Courtesy Beth Reed Buckles

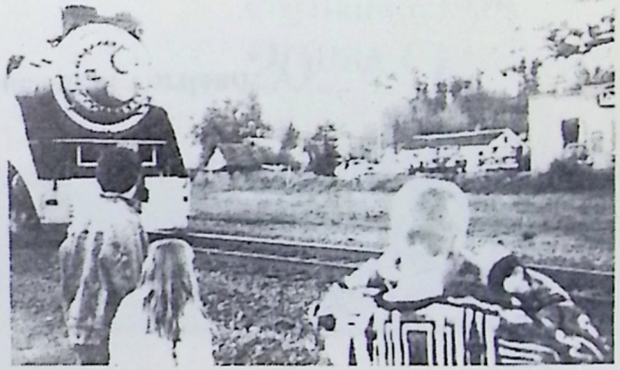
GHHS-1363 (94.45.26)

Golden Spike Special with railroad officials, speeding through Gold Hill in special observation car. Centennial of the Golden Spike 1887-1987

Courtesy Tom Cushman
GHHS-2292 (96.8.2)



Southern Pacific Daylight Streamliner #71 in 1937. 1st streamliners built in Calif. in 1930. Held 22,000 gals. water.
Courtesy Beth Reed Buckles
GHHS-1343 (94.45.6)

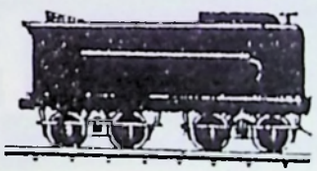


Centennial of Golden Spike Special. Steam engine, GS-4 (4.4.9) coming through Gold Hill in 1987. Kenny Cushman plugging ears. This engine still in serviceable condition.
Courtesy Tom Cushman
GHHS-2287 (96.8.7)

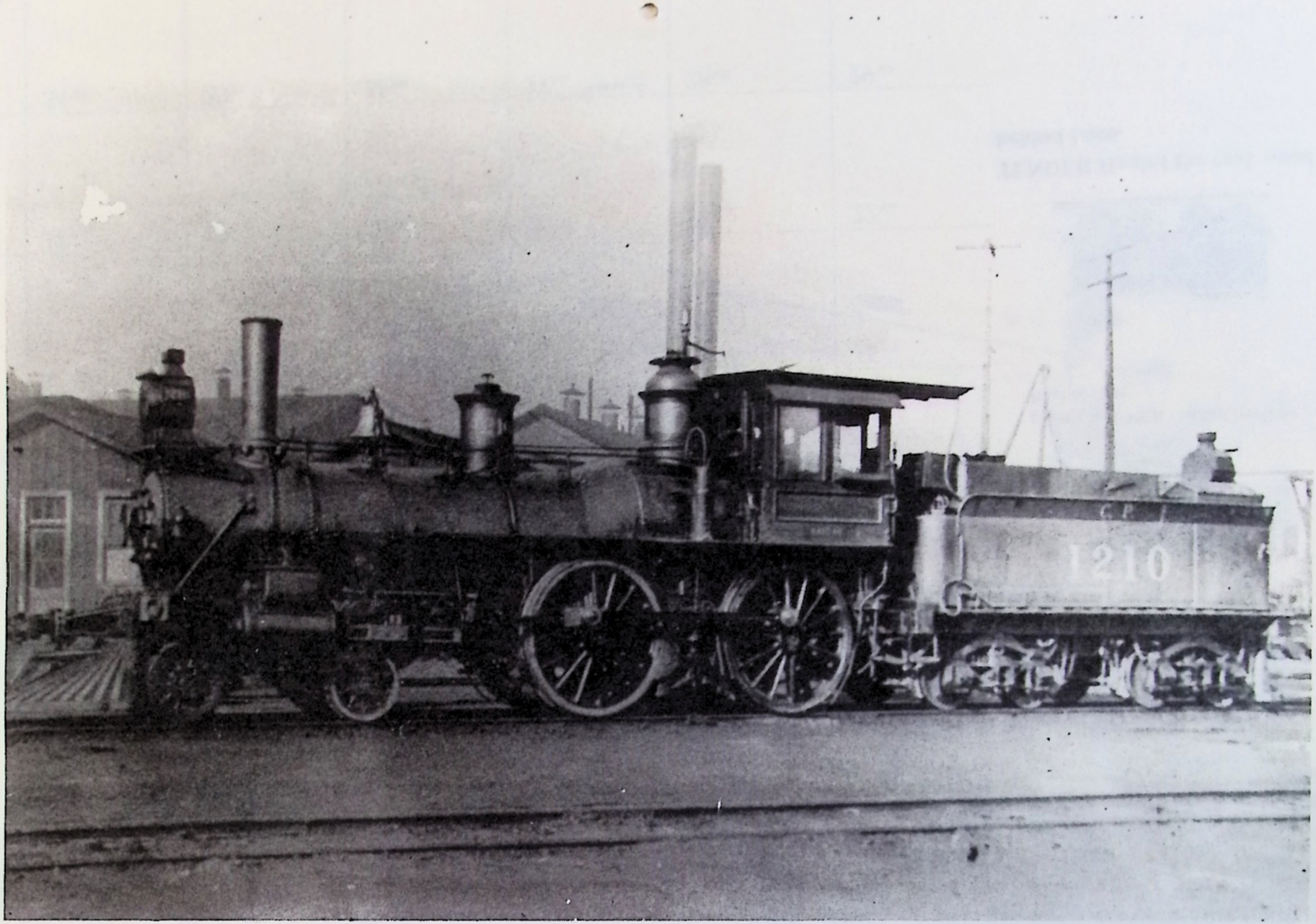
November 1997

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
OCTOBER 1997 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	DECEMBER 1997 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	recycled paper				1 305
2 306	3 307	4 308 Election Day	5 309	6 310	7 311	8 312
9 313	10 314	11 315 Veterans' Day Remembrance Day (Canada)	12 316	13 317	14 318	15 319
16 320	17 321	18 322	19 323	20 324	21 325	22 326
23 327	24 328	25 329	26 330	27 331 Thanksgiving Day	28 332	29 333
334 30						November

COW CATCHER - ribbed scoop on front of Loco.

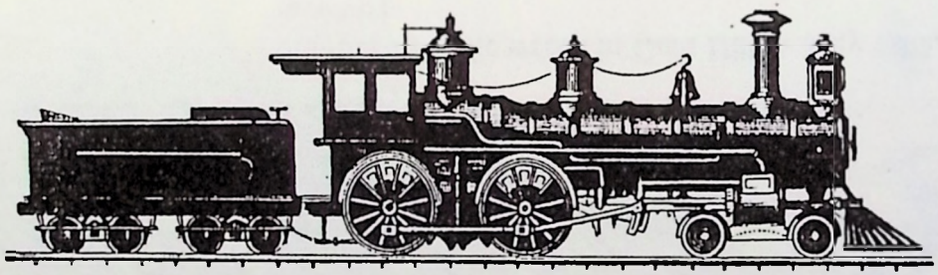


TENDER Hauled the coal, wood or oil behind Loco.



Lima Model 4-4-0 built in late 1880s ran the Siskiyou route. On O & C line out of Portland

Courtesy Beth Reed Buckles
GHHS-1383 (94.45.46)



Courtesy R.D. Winslow Northwind
Publishers

December 1997

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
recycled paper	1 335	2 336	3 337	4 338	5 339	6 340
7 341	8 342	9 343	10 344	11 345	12 346	13 347
14 348	15 349	16 350	17 351	18 352	19 353	20 354
21 355	22 356	23 357 Hanukkah Begins at Sundown	24 358 Hanukkah	25 359 Christmas Day	26 360 Boxing Day (Canada)	27 361
28 362	29 363	30 364	31 365			

NOVEMBER 1997

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

JANUARY 1998

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

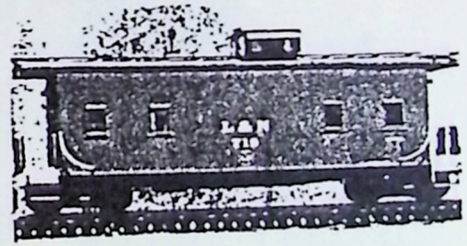
December

Cog Railway 1870s
20 USA

1870 Cog Railroad Locomotive used on postage stamp in 1995. Reproduced by permission of Don Parent, Gold Hill Postmaster.

Courtesy Alyce Bottelson
GHHS-2293 (96.9.1)

"CONSIST" number of cars in a train.



CABOOSE - Living quarters at rear of train.

Southern Pacific wreck in Gold Hill in May 1903. 1890 Model 4-6-0 Baldwin Locomotives involved.

Courtesy Beth Reed Buckles
GHHS-1365 (94.45.28)

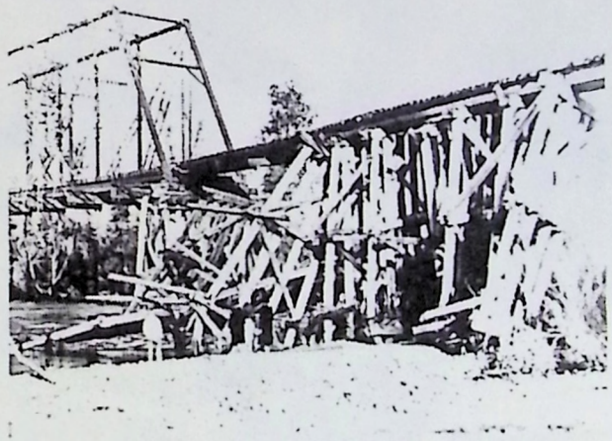
1898, 2-8-2 Mikado type Consolidation Locomotive used by Pacific Portland Cement until 1954, parked at the plant which closed April 14, 1957.
Photo about 1956 by M. Dale Newton
Courtesy Bert Webber
GHHS-2418 (96.15.1)

Damaged bridge across Applegate River near Wilderville. Marble Mtn. spur of S.P. during flood of 1953

Courtesy Ray Ritter
GHHS- 223 (87.2.75)

Gondola cars unloading lime rock from Marble Mtn. at Beaver/Portland cement plant at Gold Hill
Courtesy Ray Ritter
GHHS-107 (87.2.26)

Cement Plant machinery arrived at G.H. Depot "1910"



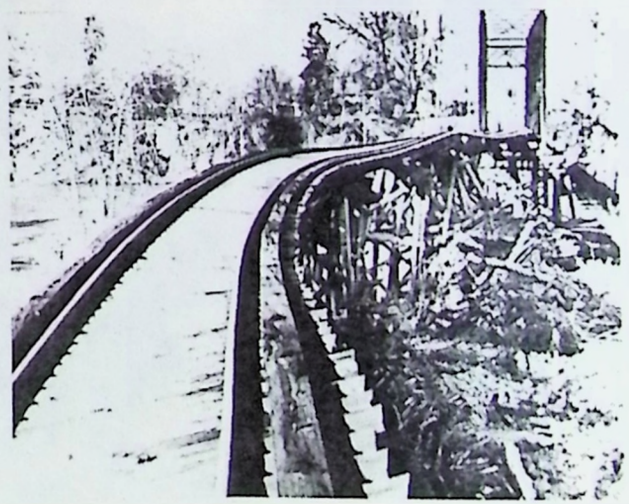
Flood Damaged bridge across the Rogue River at Grants Pass on Marble Mtn. spur line of S.P. leased by Beaver Portland Cement Co. Old California & Oregon Coast R.R.

Courtesy Ray Ritter
GHHS-238 (87.2.33)

In 1913 a branch line was started from Grants Pass by The California & Oregon Coast Railway with the ambitious hope of reaching Crescent City, Calif. Bridges were placed across the Rogue River at Grants Pass and across the Applegate river at Wilderville with the tracks going as far as Waters creek near Wonder. At this point in 1915 funding ran out so the project was abandoned.

In January 1935, Beaver Portland Cement Co. leased the line, extending a spur from Wilderville to their holdings at Marble Mountain. Limestone was hauled to Gold Hill for 19 years, but after the 1953 flood damaged the bridges Beaver terminated the lease in 1954. It was decided trucks could haul the rock at much less cost than repairing the flood damage.

Information Courtesy Ed Austin-Southern Pacific in Oregon

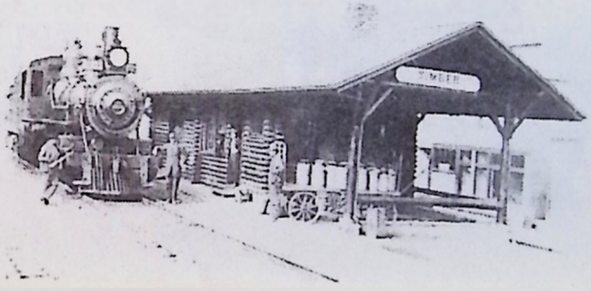


GHHS-237 (87.2.82)

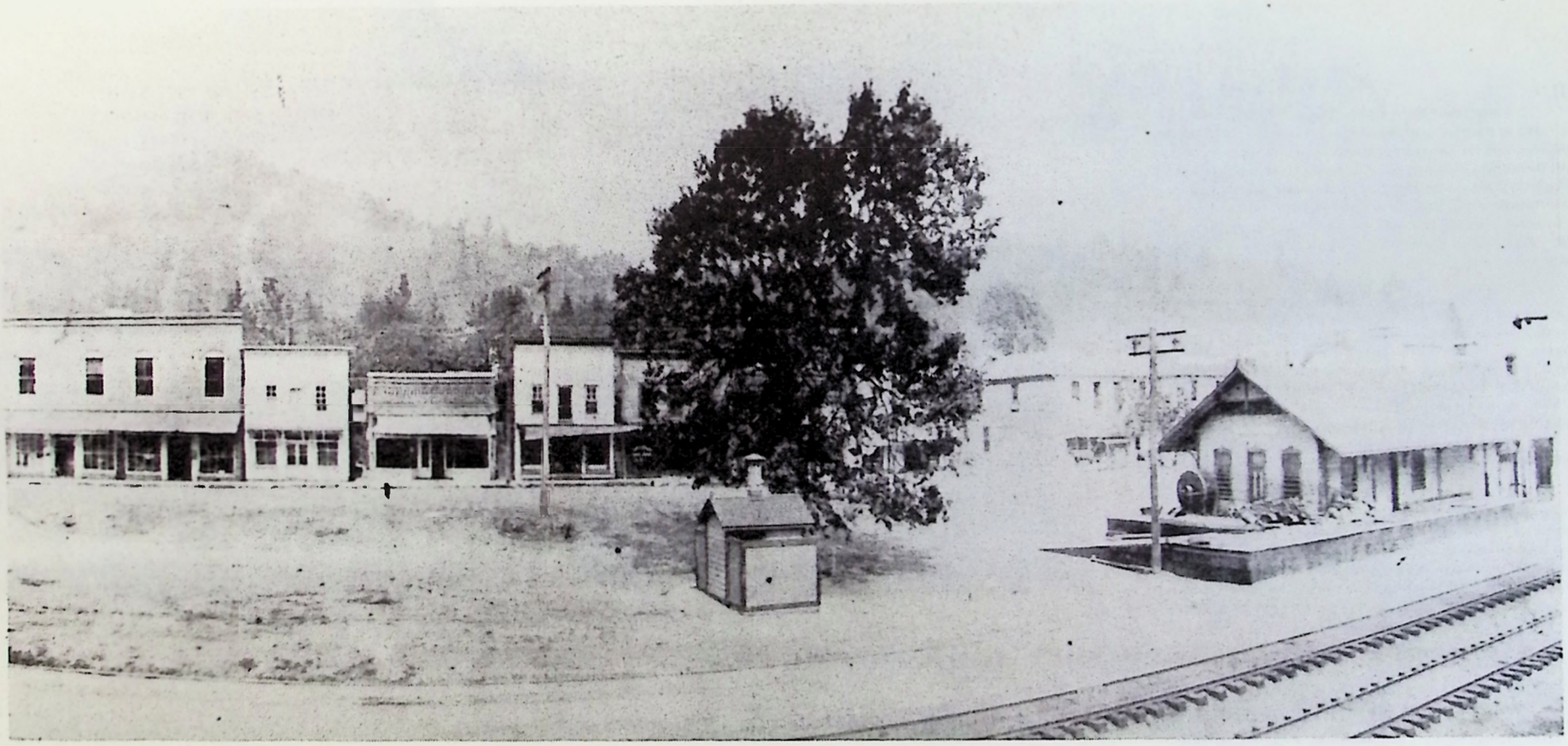
1890 Baldwin 2-2-0 Locomotive pulling train 15 at dedication of new Depot in 1900

Courtesy Hortense Thompson Mayer Est.
GHHS-2130 (95.13.160)

New depot built in 1900 on north
side of tracks as seen in 1955
Courtesy Mildred Mack GHHS-146 (86.10.13)



Depot at Timber Oregon in 1890's.
Note log construction.
Photo purchased from Calif. State
Railroad Museum
GHHS-2401 G.M. Best collection
#900-10981



Fourth Avenue showing 2nd R.R. depot around 1910. Note public rest rooms.
Courtesy Mary Hendricks GHHS-822 (87.1.86)

1st Depot in 1897 on South side of tracks. Note water tower.
Courtesy Pete Arnold
GHHS-49 (89.4.32)

Central Point Depot in the 1950's

Courtesy Linda Genaw
GHHS-545 (91.1.34)

Early Day Railroads in Oregon - Southern Oregon & Gold Hill

A railroad was first proposed at a meeting in Jacksonville in 1850. By Spring of 1863, surveying was proposed. By October of 1863 a preliminary survey from Calif. reached Jacksonville but ran out of money. A Mr. Gaston promoted funds to continue the preliminary survey in 1864 under direction of a Col. Barry. This survey reached Portland by Oct. 1864.

Oregon Central R.R. Co. started construction at Portland, OR in April 1868, under the direction of Mr. Gaston. Progress was slow. In July 1870 a Mr. Ben Holliday replaced Gaston. The line reached Eugene in 1871 & ran out of funds. Holliday obtained land grants & floated a 10.5 million-dollar loan from railway industry interests in Germany. Construction reached Roseburg in 1872.

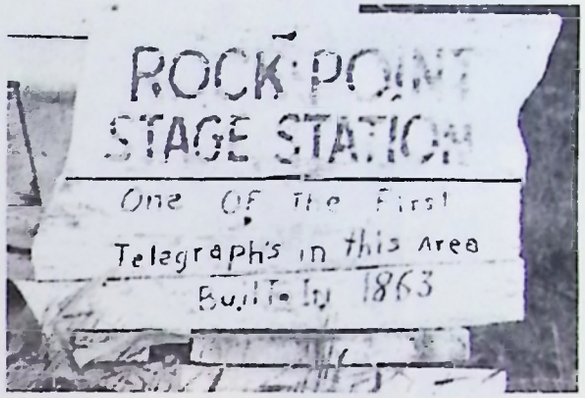
The German loan was not repaid so Holliday was replaced by a Mr. Villard, who resumed construction from Roseburg in 1881. Construction had reached the Rogue Valley by 1884 and reached Ashland by the end of the year. Previous final surveys were conducted ahead of the construction thru Gold Hill in 1883 (See Photo).

Southern Pacific Co. took over the line in May 1887 and by Dec. 1887 had completed the rails to the Calif. border where it linked up with Southern Pacific Rails that had been built in Northern Calif. to mile post 403.4. This section of the railroad through Southern Oregon was dubbed the "Siskiyou line" and was the only direct rail route north & south until the building of the Natron Cutoff south from Springfield, OR. to Calif. thru Klamath Falls, OR in 1926. Built thru mountainous country with many tunnels & switchbacks, the Siskiyou grade is one of the steepest in the west, running as much as 3.5% as it nears the California border.

Mile Post Markers, Stations & Whistle stops were at locations going north as follows:
Ashland 429.1, Medford 441.8, Central Point 445.7, Tolo 450.2, Ray Gold 451.4, Gold Hill 457.2, Rock Point 459.4, Zacher 460.1, Rogue River 464.9, Grants Pass 473.9.

After 108 years on the Siskiyou route, Southern Pacific was bought out on Dec. 31, 1994 by Central Oregon & Pacific RR (CORP).

Information Courtesy Ed Austin-Southern Pacific in Oregon and Dale Mathney, CORP



Sign at Rock Point Stage and Train Station. Original building still standing
Photo by Ted Wharton
GHHS-2301 (GHHS file photo)

S. End Tunnel 13. Clean up crew after Train Hold up.
Courtesy Beth Reed Buckles
GHHS-1364 (94.45.27)

N. End Tunnel 13. Site of Great Train Hold up.
Courtesy Beth Reed Buckles
GHHS-1358 (94.13.21)

Jackson County was known as "pocket gold country"--that is, the area contained lode gold in rich concentrations in small areas near the surface. The Gold Hill pocket is considered "the grand daddy of them all, producing $700,000." Another pocket a few miles south of Gold Hill, the Revenue pocket, is reputed to have produced $100,000.

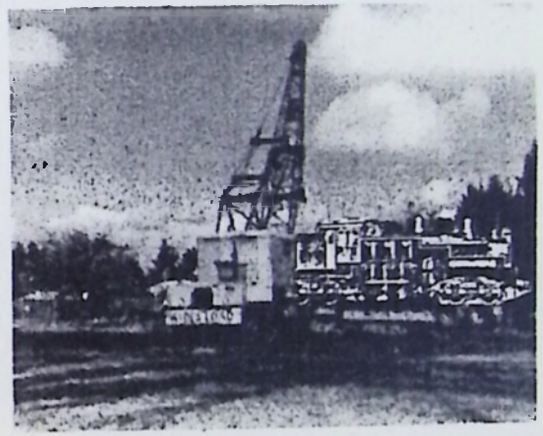
But the town of Gold Hill, like Medford, really developed not because of the gold strikes in the hill across the river but because of the railroad. Although the line came through Rock Point, where a store and post office, school, blacksmith shop, cemetery, and a number of homes already existed, the officials decided that the limited space available there made it impossible for a town to be established and grow. They decided on a location two miles up river, where Gold Hill now stands and there built the first buildings: a depot and freight office and stockyards.

Thomas Chavner, a large landholder and one of the first to make a fortune in the pocket gold discoveries on Gold Hill, laid out and donated the townsite on a part of his four sections. The railroad, to appease the people at Rock Point, announced a contest to name the new town, with the prize a building lot to be given the winner. John Henry Griffiths submitted the name of Gold Hill for the prominent feature across the river and thus the town was named. Incorporation followed in early 1895 following action by the Oregon State Legislature.

GHHS

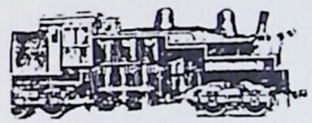
The Great Train Hold Up

Shortly after 12:45 p.m., Oct. 11, 1923, Southern Pacific train #13 (Shasta Limited. Gold Special) entered tunnel 13 at Siskiyou Summit. Suddenly two young men jumped on the train as it entered the tunnel & worked forward. Jumping in the Locomotive Cab, they ordered the engineer to stop with the cab just clear of the tunnel. The sequence of events that follow are detailed in the books, "Oregon's Great Train Hold Up", by Bert & Margie Webber and "Tunnel 13" by Art Chipman. In all, four men were slain & the train dynamited in search of a large payroll. The holdup was staged by the three DeAutremont brothers who initially escaped, minus any money, but were ultimately captured & convicted.



Medco Shay being moved to Railroad Park in Medford. Originally hauled logs at Butte Falls
Courtesy Chris Miller
GHHS-2406 (95.26.2)

Thanks go to the many friends, officers & members of GHHS for helping, donating photo's & giving information. Acknowledgments given wherever possible. Special thanks go to Bert Webber, Author; Ed Austin, Author; Bob Hallanger, H&H Construction; R.D. Winslow, publisher & Calif. State R.R. museum. The GHHS assumes no liability as to accuracy of names, dates, places or facts. We have not intentionally used any copyrighted material without permission. We welcome any corrections or identifications. Calendar layout & production by Ted Wharton.



Gear drive shay locomotives built by Lima could handle heavy loads on 10% grades. Invented by Ephriam Shay in 1873 to move logs.

Gold Hill Depot, 1919.

From charcoal sketch of Gold Hill Depot. Drawn from memory by Chuck Wharton.

GHHS-(96.16.2)

(Front Cover Photo)
5 car train pulled by Baldwin 4-8-0 mountain locomotive pulling across the Dollarhide Trestle in about 1910
Courtesy Ted Wharton
GHHS-2419 (96.1.36)

(Back Cover Photo)
FROM THEN TILL NOW
Corp GP.40 Diesel (3000 h.p.) south bound at Tolo, passing WCTU "Y" to White City at 8:30 a.m. 8-13-96
Photo by Ted Wharton
GHHS-2417 (96.1.35)

Published by Gold Hill Historical Society & Museum
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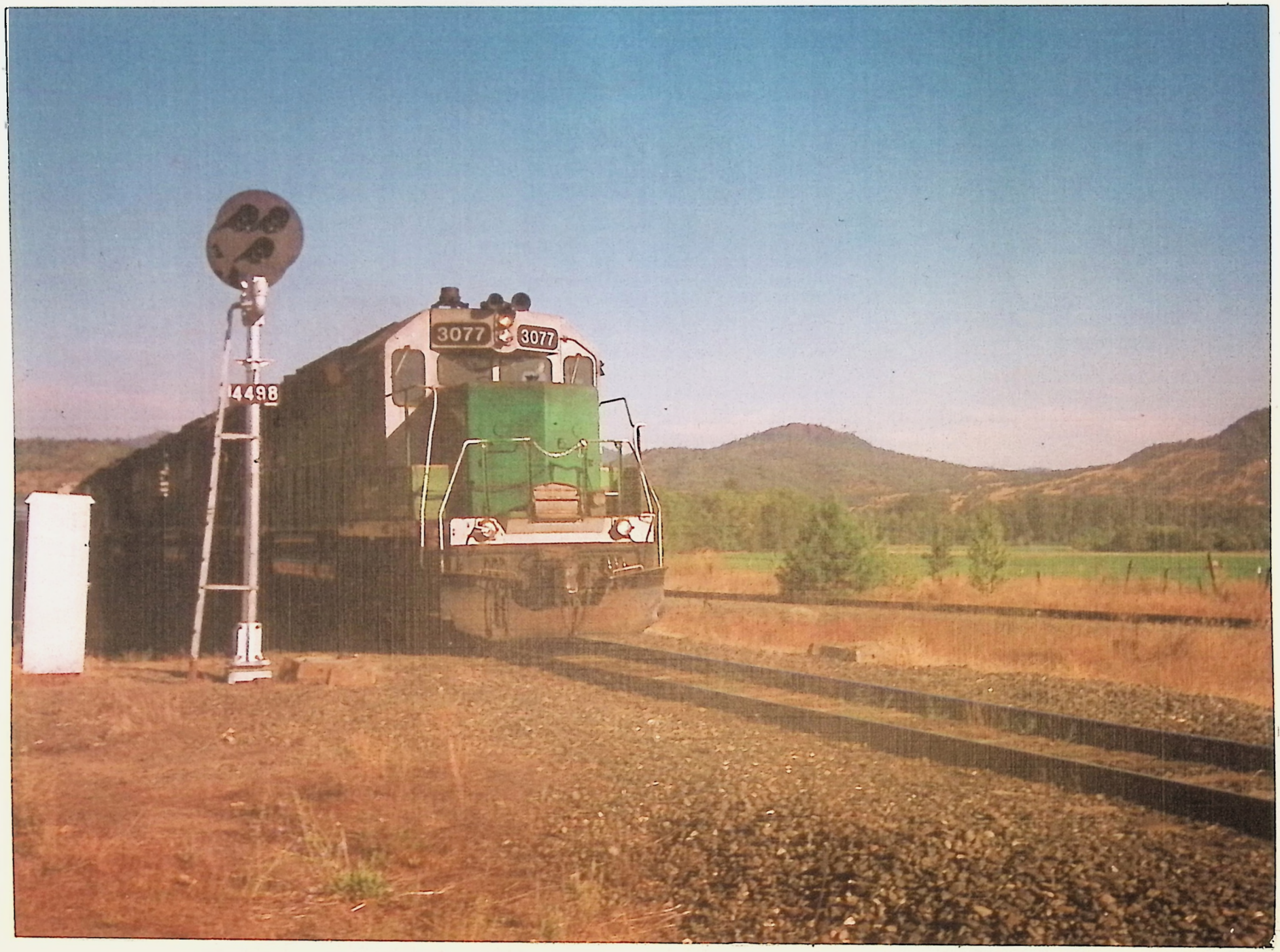
1997 GOLD HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1997